

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

SIL-01 LAB-06 OMB-01 RSR-01 /093 W  
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P R 142136 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4438

INFO CINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 1465

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, UY

SUBJECT: ERRO CASE NEAR FINAL VOTE

CINCSO FOR POLAD

REF: MONTEVIDEO 1446

1. SUMMARY: SENATE COMMITTEE VOTED ON MAY 11 AND FULL SENATE NOW EXPECTED TO REACH DECISION ON ERRO CASE EARLY THIS WEEK. EXECUTIVE'S REQUEST FOR LIFTING SENATOR ERRO'S "IMMUNITIES", WHILE RECEIVING SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE, WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY FALL SHORT TWO-THIRDS REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE. AMIDST NEW CHARGES BETWEEN ARMED FORCES CINCS AND OPPOSITION SENATOR FERREIRA, NEGATIVE SENATE OUTCOME INCREASINGLY SHAPING UP AS CONFRONTATION BETWEEN CONGRESS AND MILITARY. END SUMMARY.

2. SENATE COMMITTEE VOTED MAY 11 ON EXECUTIVE REQUEST TO LIFT CONGRESSIONAL IMMUNITIES OF SENATOR ENRIQUE ERRO. COLORADO PARTY SENATORS GRAUERT, PAZ AGUIRRE AND SINGER WERE JOINED BY BLANCO PARTY SENATOR ECHEGOYEN IN VOTING FOR EXECUTIVE'S REQUEST. SENATORS MICHELINI (FRENTE AMPLIO), ORTIZ (BLANCO SUPPORTER OF SENATOR FERREIRA ALDUNATE) AND BLANCO SENATOR BELTRAN OPPOSED. BOTH ECHEGOYEN AND BELTRAN, WHO HAVE SUPPORTED THE ADMINISTRATION IN THE PAST, WERE UNDER INTENSE PRESIDENTIAL

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PRESSURE TO SUPPORT THE EXECUTIVE ON THIS VOTE. ECHEGOYEN ACCEDED, BUT BELTRAN, ALLEGING EFFORTS TO "INTIMIDATE" THE SENATE, REFUSED.

3. FULL SENATE IS SCHEDULED TO CONVENE THIS EVENING (MAY 14). AS ON COMMITTEE VOTE, EXECUTIVE'S REQUEST LIKELY TO OBTAIN SIMPLE MAJORITY, BUT FALL SHORT OF THE TWO THIRD (21) VOTES NECESSARY TO ALLOW MILITARY LEGALLY TO ARREST ERRO. FINAL VOTE, HOWEVER, MAY NOT BE FOR SEVERAL DAYS.

4. INTENSITY OF MILITARY FEELING OVER ERRO'S CASE REVEALED OVER THE WEEK-END WHEN MILITARY COMMANDERS- IN- CHIEF CHIAPPE POSSE, PEREZ AND GONZALEZ RELEASED TO THE PRESS A POSITION PAPER WHICH HAD BEEN READ TO THE TROOPS ON THE EVENING OF MAY 10. PRONOUNCEMENT STATES THAT THE MILITARY HAVE ASSISTED IN ALL POSSIBLE WAYS THE SENATE'S INVESTIGATION OF THE ERRO CASE. SENATOR ORTIZ'S EFFORTS ON THE EVENING OF MAY 7 TH TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE HANDWRITING OF EX-"TUPAMARO" AMODIO PEREZ IS DESCRIBED IN THE MILITARY DOCUMENT AS PART OF A CONSPIRACY BY THE SUPPORTERS OF SENATOR FERREIRA TO "VIOLATE INSTITUTIONAL SUCCESSION" AND TO "SECURE AN EARLY PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION." FERREIRA IS ACCUSED IN THE DOCUMENT OF HAVING OFFERED LAST FEBRUARY 9, AT THE HEIGHT OF THE EARLIER MILITARY/ CIVILIAN CRISIS, THROUGH THE INTERMEDIACY OF A HIGH ARMY OFFICAL, TO SUPPORT A MILITARY "GOLPE" IN RETURN FOR THE CALLING OF ELECTIONS WITHIN A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR. THE PRONOUNCEMENT GOES ON TO STATE THAT, CONTRARY TO THE ALLEGATIONS OF FERREIRA'S SUPPORTERS, THE MILITARY HAS NO NEED TO DEFAME A CONGRESS WHICH HAS BEEN "DEFAMED BY ITS OWN CORRUPT PRACTICES", "BY THE SUPPORT BY CERTAIN CONGRESSMEN OF SUBVERSIVES" AND BY THE CONGRESS STANDING BY AS THE NATION'S "ECONOMY AND PUBLIC MORALS WERE DESTROYED." THE PRONOUNCEMENT CONDEMNS THE POLITICIANS FOR "SUSTAINING A WORN OUT AND CRIMINAL LIBERALISM" AND FOR "PARALYZING THE COUNTRY BY FOMENTING SCANDALS, PUBLIC UNCERTAINTY AND IDEOLOGICAL INFILTRATION AND SABOTAGE AND COMMOTION IN THE PRODUCTIVE SECTORS OF THE COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY AMONG WORKERS AND STUDENTS." THE CINCS END THEIR PROCOUNCEMENT BY RECALLING THEIR COMMUNIQUE OF MARCH 23 (MONTEVIDEO 904) IN WHICH THEY HAD "STATED THAT THIS WAS THEIR LAST EFFORT TO SEEK AN UNDERSTANDING AND CONCILIATION WITH CONGRESS". FOR THESE REASONS THEY HAVE "DECIDED TO MAINTAIN THE ARMED FORCES IN A STATE OF

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ALERT TO ACT WHENEVER NECESSARY TO DEFEND THE HIGH INTERESTS OF THE NATION".

5. ON MAY 13 FERREIRA REPLIED TO THE CINCS PROCOUNCEMENT DENYING THAT HE EVER EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR ANY ACT THAT WOULD VIOLATE THE NATION'S CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER. FERREIRA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE HAD EXPRESSED LAST FEBRUARY A NEED FOR POPULAR ELECTIONS

IN ORDER TO SOLVE THE NATION'S INSTABILITY, BUT IN THE UNDER-  
STANDING THAT SUCH ELECTIONS WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN THE  
NORMS OF THE CONSTITUTION. ATTACKING ARMY COMMANDER- IN- CHIEF  
HUGO CHIAPPE POSSE, FERREIRA DENOUNCED THE CINCS' MAY 10 PRO-  
NOUNCEMENT AS CONTAINING ERROR OR DELIBERATE MISINFORMATION.  
" IN EITHER CASE," FERREIRA CONTINUED, " THE SITUATION IS SERIOUS,  
THE COMMANDER- IN- CHIEF OF THE ARMY CANNOT BE A LIAR OR IRRE-  
SPONSIBLE." FERREIRA ENDED HIS REJOINER BY ALLEGING THAT  
GENERALS VENTURA RODRIGUEZ AND CESAR MARTINEZ COULD CONFORM  
HIS VERSION OF THE EVENTS. GEN. RODRIGUEZ ( A FERREIRA  
SUPPORTER WHO HAS BEEN SIDELINED BY THE ARMY) HAS CONFIRMED  
FERREIRA'S ACCOUNT TO THE PRESS. MILITARY CINCS ISSUED FURTHER  
REJOINER TO FERREIRA'S COMMUNIQUE IN THE EARLY MORNING OF MAY  
14 IN WHICH THEY REAFFIRM THEIR VERSION OF THE FEBRUARY EVENTS.  
MINISTER OF DEFENSE RAVENNA AT LUNCH FOR VISING USCINCSO TOLD  
ME TODAY THAT THE MILITARY HAS A WRITTEN COPY OF FERREIRA  
FEBRUARY PROPOSAL WHICH PROVED THAT FERREIRA DID IN FACT  
SUPPORT A MILITARY " GOLPE".

6. WE INFORMED TROOPS BEING BROUGHT IN FROM INTERIOR AND ARE  
CONFINED TO BARRACKS. MILITARY HAS INCREASED SECURITY AROUND  
CONGRESS, FURTHER ADDING TO TENSIONS. COMMUNIST DOMINATED CNT  
LABOR CONFEDERATION HAS CALLED FOR MASS RALLY MAY 15 AT STEPS  
OF CONGRESS, ALTHOUGH LABOR LEADERS HAVE BEEN CAREFUL TO STRESS  
THAT PURPOSE OF RALLY IS PRIMARILY AGAINST PROPOSED LAW REGU-  
LATING UNIONS AND ONLY SECONDARILY IN SUPPORT OF ERRO.

7. COMMENT: HEATED EXCHANGE BETWEEN MILIARY CINCS AND  
FERREIRA HAS ASSURED THAT FINAL SENATE DELIBERATIONS ON ERRO'S  
CASE WILL OCCUR IN A HIGH STATE OF TENSION. IN CALL WITH  
GENERAL ROSSON ON PRESIDENT BORDABERRY TODAY THE PRESIDENT  
SEEMED DISTRACTED AND NERVOUS REVEALING THE GENERAL INCREASED  
STATE OF POLITICAL TENSION.

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

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